FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 JANUARY 1984

Lebanon

Political Developments — The Amal Movement is "on the verge" of endorsing a "greater jihad" against Israel if the latter does not totally withdraw from the south, Amal leader Nabih Birri declared in a statement reported by Beirut radio. Birri's statement, made in response to Israeli actions against residents and the economy of southern Lebanon and Amal officials, declared that Israel's detention on 11 and 12 January of "leaders of the movement" brings Israeli forces "to the mouth of the volcano," the radio added.

The radio also reported a statement by the "all-out civilian resistance against Israel" warning "those who are trying to foil" the Lebanese security plan of the consequences of their actions and asserting that any delay in implementing the plan "will expose the south to grave dangers in the event Israel effects a partial withdrawal."

In another development, special envoy Donald Rumsfeld met with Foreign Minister Elie Salim and then departed for Syria for talks to "pave the way for the tripartite meeting of the Lebanese, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers" to be held in Casablanca on 16 January, Beirut radio disclosed. Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt left Damascus for Moscow, according to Damascus Radio.

Security Situation — The Egyptian official in charge of his country's interests section in the French Embassy was fired on by unidentified gunmen in Beirut but escaped unharmed, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Elsewhere in the city a bomb exploded in a vehicle parked near a Lebanese Army barracks, while several parts of the city, including the port area and a French position, were subjected to shelling, Beirut radio stated. Artillery fire was also directed at Army positions in the mountain region, with Suq al-Gharb receiving particularly concentrated shelling, according to the radio.

Three Israeli soldiers were seriously wounded when an IDF convoy was ambushed south of the Az-Zahrani River, Jerusalem radio announced, and in Sidon a mine exploded when hit by an IDF armored personnel carrier, causing no casualties.

PLO Affairs

The Fatah Revolutionary Council approved the Central Committee's decision on the Palestinian relationship with Egypt and affirmed that the subject should be dealt with by the committee formed by the Central Committee and in accordance with the latter's "guidance on political movement." This came in a statement released by the Revolutionary Committee 11 January at the conclusion of its meeting in Tunis. As earlier reports had indicated, the statement, which was broadcast textually by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, endorsed the Central Committee's position supporting PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, expelling 10 Fatah dissident "putschists" from the movement, and condemning Syria and Libya for their "plot" against the Palestinian people and the PLO. The statement also touched on relations with Jordan, approving the Central Committee's formation of a committee to pursue the subject. On the new Jordanian Parliament and its amendment of the Jordanian Constitution, the statement said the council "adheres to the Jordanian Government's interpretation" of these steps as "sheer internal legal measures" and hopes they will "have no political connotation" that would conflict with the PLO's position as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Syria

British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe left Damascus on 12 January after final meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, according to Damascus radio and television. The radio reported that Howe held a departure press conference at which he noted the importance of Syria's role in the region and stated that the Syrian and British viewpoints on Lebanon's independence "are in harmony.".

Islamic Conference

Islamic foreign ministers began meeting in Rabat on 12 January to prepare for the Fourth Islamic Conference Organization Summit to be held in Casablanca on 16 January, Rabat radio announced. The radio broadcast the meeting's opening session live and later reported that the ministers held a closed session.

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Karmal Chairs 11 January PDPA Politburo Session

'Hostile' Iranian Policy Discussed

LD122257 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, chaired a regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo on 11 January. The provocative, interfering, and hostile policy of the rulers of Iran against the DRA was comprehensively discussed and assessed. The discussion took place after explanations forwarded by Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs.

The Politburo decided that instances of the provocations and interventions by Iran against the country's internal affairs should be brought to the attention of the public at home and in the world through the mass media. Thus,it would be shown how, despite the pursuance of a policy of tolerance and flexibility by the DRA, the ruling rightist circles connected to Iran, contrary to the interests of the peoples of both countries, continue their hostile provocative policy of ill-intentions against our country.

Babrak Karmal again emphasized the fraternal historical relations between the Muslim people of Afghanistan and Iran.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo meeting assessed the comprehensive principled policy of the PDPA and the DRA Government with regard to the sacred religion of Islam and assistance to the Muslim toilers of the country, foremost with the noble ulema and religious leaders.

The Politburo decided to take further practical measures to follow the principle of Article No 5 of the DRA Basic Principles— which states: The observation of respect for and safeguarding of the sacred religion of Islam is maintained and the freedom of observing religious rites for Muslims is guaranteed— and also the directives of the program of action of the PDPA— which states: The PDPA and the DRA once again officially declare that all freedoms and rights of Muslims in the DRA and the rights and freedoms of the noble religious leaders and ulema, these patriots of the country, are preserved, protected,and guaranteed.

Matters related to the provision of houses for Kabul citizens were discussed at the Politburo meeting and, in order to improve the distribution of houses and residential dwellings and land for the construction of houses to Kabul citizens on just norms, it was decided to form a commission, headed by the party committee of Kabul City and the Kabul municipality, with the participation of delegates from state establishments and social organizations.

The Politburo considers that during the years following the victory of the April Revolution, considerable measures have been taken regarding the construction of houses in Kabul City. However, demand cannot be met.

Babrak Karmal pointed out that the provision of homes for Kabul citizens is an important question and holds the consistent attention of the party and government. In addition to improving the system of the just distribution of houses, the growth of house construction in Kabul City should be speeded up; powerful financial and technical backing for the construction of dwelling houses should be made available.

With optimistic revolutionary aspiration and the practical opportunities which, with the victory of the April Revolution, are now ava[illegible]e in the country, Babrak Karmal said that in the not very distant future, the city of Kabul will be transformed into a beautiful city, the capital of revolutionary Afghanistan.

Another important topic discussed at the Politburo meeting was the work of the DRA State Planning Committee in the organization and the accomplishment of major tasks toward the economic and social growth of the country during 1984 and 1985 based on the decisions of the 11th PDPA Central Committee Plenum. A report submitted to the Politburo meeting by officials in charge of the State Planning Committee and the department of economics of the Central Committee was heard. The Politburo considers that a relative improvement has occurred in the accomplishment and organization of the stated economic [word indistinct] tasks which were mentioned in the 11th PDPA Central Committee Plenum. Defects and the weak aspects of (?the work done) by the Planning Committee were also pointed out by the Politburo.

A number of guidelines based on the statement by Babrak Karmal at the meeting were prepared and reflected in the resolutions of the Politburo.

Addressing officials of the State Planning Committee and other responsible state and party organs, Babrak Karmal said: The level of study and control over the work of ministries and state departments ought to be consistently raised by the State Planning Committee, which is as an authorized state economic organ. Serious measures ought to be taken toward the existing faults in work in order to solve important problems in the country's economic growth. Effective and systematic control ought to be strengthened so as to realize the planned indices; the distribution of production of state sectors and of the mixed and private sectors should be implemented in accordance with the plan, and assistance and supervision should be rendered to the private sector of the economy.

Babrak Karmal gave particular emphasis to the provision of scientific and realistic plans toward the fruitful growth of the country's economy, raising the level of industrial and agricultural products, and the control of prices in the interest of the people. Babrak Karmal said that the quality of planning ought to be raised to the necessary level based on the prospects of economic and social growth of the country. Great attention must be paid to the balanced growth of the branches of the national economy in the provinces, cities and districts, and to the training of national cadres for branches of the national economy, education and culture.

The Politburo session also debated topics related to the implementation of the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee Plenum, such as the activity of mechanized agricultural stations, for which a guiding resolution was adopted. Babrak Karmal pointed to the importance of mechanized agricultural stations as the rallying point of peasants. Babrak Karmal instructed the State Planning Committee and the Ministry of Agriculture and

Land Reform to take specific and practical measures to increase the number of mechanized agricultural stations, to give necessary help to the farmers and strive to modernize and introduce new methods of agriculture.

A series of other important topics in connection with the improvement of party work and in the areas of improving work methods for the purpose of enhancing the level of activity and effectiveness of the party and state organs were discussed at the session.

Rebels 'Crushed' in Various Provinces

LD121843 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Eighty-eight counterrevolutionary elements who disrupted the peaceful life of (Shum Khel) and (Loya China) villages in Paktia Province have been crushed.

A spokesman for the security forces said that 83 antitank and antipersonnel mines, two mortars, one DShK, and a large quantity of assorted ammunition were seized from these highway robers. An equipment store belonging to these elements was also destroyed by the country's vigilant security forces.

According to another report, 15 reactionary agents in Qandahar Province were crushed. The spokesman added that, as a result of a recent mopping-up operation in Balkh Province, which was carried out by the security forces against the counterrevolutionary elements, six counterrevolutionaries were eliminated in the (Churak) region along with their ringleader called (?Abdol Qader). A quantity of weapons was seized from them. Seven of these elements were also crushed in the (Kata Khel) and (Laki) villages in Balkh Province and seven assorted weapons were seized from these things.

During the last week, the heroic men and officers of the Army, the sarandoy, and revolution defense groups crushed bands of counterrevolutionaries in Shindand District, Herat Province; Dowshi District, Baghlan Province; and Khanabad District, Qonduz Province. A number of these elements were captured. Citing the security sources of the aforementioned provinces, BAKHTAR correspondents report that 30 DShK, 25 assorted weapons, 2 missile launchers, 2,500 rounds of ammunition, and a quantity of propaganda leaflets were seized from these murderers.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Intensify Operations

BK130242 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have intensified their operations despite severe cold, according to reports. The mujahidin destroyed 13 Soviet-Karmal tanks and killed a number of soldiers during an encounter in Herat Province. They attacked six different positions of the Soviet-Karmal forces, including their headquarters in Kabul last week. The mujahidin have mounted pressure on the Soviet-Karmal forces in Konar, Nangarhar, Paktia, and Qandahar Provinces and are putting up resistance in Faryab, Jowzjan, and Farah Provinces, the reports added.

Zia Speaks to Newsmen Before Leaving for Fes

BK131127 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, is now on his way to Fes to attend the fourth Islamic summit beginning in Casablanca on Monday.

During his stopover in Karachi, he told newsmen that the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East situation are the major items to be discussed by the summit. He said we would try in our own humble ways how best these and some other knotty problems could be solved. He said even if a solution was not found, at least ways to resolve them could be considered.

On Afghanistan, the president said he expected a positive debate on the issue and a strong resolution as the Islamic summit had last time. The president expressed the hope that the coming summit would be another step toward the unity of the Muslim ummah [community]. He said he had great hope, expectation, and prayers for the success of the summit.

In reply to a question, the president said that the foreign ministers of Pakistan and India might have a meeting soon after the meeting of the foreign secretaries of the two countries.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport before his departure this morning, the president said that Islamic countries have plenty of talents, manpower, and resources. What is needed is to harness them in correct manner. He said he, as chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Committee on Science and Technology, will present a workable plan at the summit which was (?formed) after the two meetings of the committee in Islamabad. He said the plan seem to be of fairly considerable benefit to the Muslim world as a whole. The president said we are not in competition with anybody else. All we are asking for in the plan is the opportunity to develop ourselves. In this respect, whatever the Islamic world can do itself, it must do.

Replying to a question the president said that the results of international organizations, such as the ICO, are not immediately visible. But they do serve a very useful purpose.

Asked about Iran's decision not to participate in the summit, the president said his personal (?opinion) and of Pakistan was that Iran should attend the summit. It was in the interest of Iran and the Muslim world that we must show unity.

In reply to a question, the president said the ICO peace committee was still in operation. We hope we would discuss the present situation of the Iran-Iraq war and again see as to what initiative the peace committee should take at this stage, the president said.

Answering a question about the release of political detainees, the president said they take a continuous look on the few detainees that they had. We continuously review the position. Asked about the release of Miss Benazir, he said it was purely done on the initiative of the government at her own request.

AFP Report

BK131126 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 13 (AFP) — President Mohammad Ziaul al-Haq today denied that the United States had anything to do with Pakistan's unexpected release on Tuesday of Benazir Bhutto, 30, a vocal critic of his martial law regime.

Miss Bhutto, eldest daughter of executed ex-Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was allowed to leave Pakistan after three years detention, to seek treatment abroad for an ear ailment and rejoin her mother in Paris. She stopped over in Zurich.

The press speculated that General Zia may have been influenced by U.S. diplomatic moves, but at a press conference today before he left for the Islamic Conference beginning in Casablanca on Monday, he denied any U.S. role. Gen Zia insisted the decision had been taken "purely on the initiative of the government" and at the request of Miss Bhutto.

He also rejected any suggestion that the government had come to an "understanding" with the Pakistan People's Party founded by Mr. Bhutto. He said the position of political detainess was constantly under review, though with regard to the ban on other opposition leaders there would be "no change for the time being." Gen. Zia said there was no official ban on detainees seeking medical treatment abroad. Mr. Bhutto [words indistinct] Begum Musrat, was allowed to leave to seek treatment for suspected lung cancer, he added.

Gen. Zia also said Pakistan was doing all it could to persuade Iran not to boycott next week's summit in Casablanca, Morocco, of the 44-nation Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO). Pakistan had urged that it was in Iran's interests and that of the Moslem world to show a united front.

Gen. Zia is a member of the 10-nation Islamic peace committee set up by the third ICO summit in Saudi Arabia in January 1982, which has so far failed to end the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq. He said today the committee was still in being.

Chief Justice Named Acting President

BK130152 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The chief justice of Pakistan, Mr Justice Mohammad Haleem, will act as president during the president's visit abroad. Meanwhile, the president has appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, Mr Justice Aslam Riaz Hussain, to act as chief justice.

Yaqub Khan Discusses India, Afghanistan, ICO

BK130457 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has once again stressed that the possibilities for a no-war pact with India should

be studied so as to help in removing doubts, suspicions, and apprehensions which affect relations between the two countries. In an interview with the BBC in London on his way to Casablanca to attend the Islamic summit conference, he said that at the moment Pakistan's attitude toward India is not very enthusiastic. The reason for this, he said, was some of the statements recently made in India. He said he is still optimistic that relations between the two countries would be improved. Pakistan for its part will continue to improve tension-free relations with India, while maintaining its sovereignty and honor, despite the fact that such Indian statements are tantamount to an attack on Pakistan's sovereignty and honor, he added.

Referring to the Afghanistan issue, he said the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Cordovez, will visit Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran by the end of March. He will prepare a document which has already been endorsed by the concerned parties and will form the basis for meaningful negotiations on the issues to be resolved.

He said he did not have any indication that the Soviet Union had made any changes in its policy or that it now is not very desirous of a political solution to the Afghanistan problem.

Replying to a question about the election of the new secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, he said there is nothing extraordinary about this. Pakistan and Bangladesh have friendly relations and this election, which is very, very important for South Asia, will be considered by the forthcoming Islamic summit conference.

Pakistan-India Subcommissions To Meet 15 Jan

BK130218 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The two subcommissions of the Pakistan-India joint commission on economic matters and trade begin their 3-day meeting in Islamabad on Sunday. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that the subcommissions on information, education, social sciences, culture, sports, travel, tourism, and consular matters will begin their 3-day meeting in New Delhi from the 19th of this month. He said Pakistan's approach to the joint ministerial commission continues to be constructive.

The spokesman said Pakistan is in touch with the Indian external affairs secretary, whose visit to Islamabad is long overdue. He added that the Pakistan foreign secretary, who would be in New Delhi in the last week of February to attend the meeting of the South Asian Regional Cooperation, would stay on to exchange views with his Indian counterpart, Mr Rasgotra, on relationship between the two countries and also fix a precise date for a meeting in Islamabad in order to resume discussions on the outstanding proposals of a nonaggression pact and the friendship treaty.

Indian 'Convicts' Released at Wagha Border

BK130208 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] A batch of Indian convicts comprising 107 persons were released and handed over to the Indian authorities at the Wagha border today on completion of jail sentences in Pakistan. These persons have been convicted and sentenced for prison terms for violation of Pakistan laws as they did not possess travel documents and their repatriation required investigation of their Indian nationalities by the Indian Government. Earlier, three such batches had been released and repatriated to India.

NAWA-WAQT Views Gandhi Friendship Proposal

GF081326 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 1 Jan 84 p 3

[Editorial: "'Peace and Friendship' Proposal to Pakistan"]

[Excerpts] Indian Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi is exerting pressure on Pakistan's Government and people to seriously consider India's peace, friendship, and cooperation treaty so that the world may see that both countries can become cordial friends with bilateral relations based on mutual confidence.

She said this while addressing the Calcutta Congress session, but she relapsed into her usual lies and accusations, saying in the same breath that India desires peace and friendship with all its neighbors, but that it cannot believe or accept the true nature of their intentions. She particularly mentioned Pakistan in this context, saying that it is carrying on propaganda against India on the one hand and acquiring more arms than it needs on the other, which is causing immense concern among the Indian people.

These utterances are based on such overt deception that India's opposition Janata and Lok Dal Parties' national democratic front took immediate notice of the fact and said that Mrs Gandhi is exaggerating the actual danger from Pakistan because the real danger to India comes not from Pakistan, but from Mrs Gandhi's efforts to keep power in the hands of her own family and to make India an ally of Soviet policies. According to the front, the aim of Mrs Gandhi's policies is to deprive the Indian people of democratic freedom and to enable the Soviet Union to acquire another Afghanistan (by way of Pakistan). The front warned the people to beware of this "internal threat and external danger" and to thwart such inflammatory intentions.

The question of whether the national democratic front's protest and warning has any effect in India is important in itself, but as far as the Pakistani people are concerned, they should not be fooled by Mrs Gandhi's desire for friendship (without concrete evidence). Instead of being intimidated by her lies and threats, they should strengthen their defenses and above all set their house in order on the basis of internal national unity.

Mrs Gandhi's lust for power is not a simple manner for in her paranoid opposition to Pakistan she has become an ally of Soviet international policy. When Indian opposition circles consider her dangerous for the country, it is about time that the Pakistani people's eyes be fully opened.

Party Members Urged To Join MRD Activities

GF130935 Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jan 84 p 10

[Text] Lahore, Jan 8: The acting secretary general of the defunct National Democratic Party, Mr Sohail Akhtar Malik, has issued a directive to all officebearers and workers of his party to take an active part in all protest weeks being organised by the MRD.

Mr Malik has also demanded that the detained political leaders and workers, who are sick, should be transferred to hospitals.

NEPAL

Trade, Payment Agreement Signed With Romania

BK130052 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] His majesty the king granted audience to Romanian Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Minister Mr Pungan at the Royal Palace this afternoon. Minister of Health and Industry and Commerce Narayan Dutta Bhatta was also present on the occasion.

The Romanian delegation led by Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Minister Vasile Pungan called on Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand at his office in Singha Darbar this afternoon.

An agreement on trade and payment was signed today between his majesty's government and the Romanian Socialist Republic. Industry, Commerce, and Health Minister Narayan Dutta Bhatta and the visiting Romanian minister for trade and economic cooperation, Vasile Pungan, signed the agreement today on behalf of their respective governments. Mr Pungan, heading a four-member delegation, arrived in Katmandu yesterday to sign the agreement.

Under the agreement, both governments will provide most-favored nation treatment to each other in matters of customs and other related matters. It also stipulates that convertible foreign exchange will be used for trade promotion (?fora) and trade fairs held with a view to promoting trade.

The agreement also stipulates exchange of visits of trade (?officials) and experts between the two countries.

Later, speaking to newsmen, Mr Pungan shared his country's interest in helping Nepal to set up micropetroleum refinery.

Asked on Romania's stand on Nepal's zone of peace proposal, the visiting dignitary said Romania, which has been following a policy of respect for sovereignty and independence, noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, and control on nuclear armament, has always favored the zone of peace.

The Romanian delegation was welcomed by Industry and Commerce Minister Narayan Dutta Bhatta upon arrival at the Tribhuvan airport yesterday. Minister Bhatta hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting Romanian delegation.

SRI LANKA

All-Party Conference Proceedings Reported

BK121730 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] In the morning session of the all-party conference today, delegates who did not speak yesterday made their observations as to the agenda of the conference. At the conclusion of remarks from delegates — which included a statement of Anura Bandaranaike, the leader of the opposition, and (J.W. Devanayakan), on behalf of the government delegation — President Jayewardene addressed the conference. The venerable Madihe Pannasiha Mahanayake Thera and [name indistinct] representing the Mahasangha addressed the conference today.

In the afternoon session which commenced at 1630 the conference secretariat distributed a draft document incorporating all the suggestions for inclusion in the agenda. The delegates were of the view that this draft needed to be studied and requested an adjournment until tomorrow. The conference was accordingly adjourned until 1000 tomorrow.

The Minister of Trade and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali, addressing newsmen at a briefing after the conference, said that once this document was accepted, it would serve as a draft agenda. In answer to a question he said that Mr H.W. Jayewardene, queen's counsel, will participate in the conference to assist the presidential secretariat. Asked why the entire proceedings of the conference were not being made public as the people had a right to know what was happening, Mr Athulathmudali said ours is a free and democratic society. But, he added, we should maintain a certain amount of confidentiality about the conference because the objective [words indistinct] society is to reach an agreement to solve the problem. He thanked the media for the very responsible manner in which they were reporting the proceedings of the talks.

Mr Athulathmudali also announced that two new members have been appointed to the committee to draft the communique [words indistinct] to the media. They are Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and Anthony Perera of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna.

AFP on Buddhist Opposition

BK131002 Hong Kong AFP in English 0941 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Colombo, Jan 13 (AFP) — Opposition from Buddhist clergy is threatening to block progress at the national roundtable conference on Sri Lanka's racial problems now in its fourth day here, conference delegates and informed sources said. Political parties, including the main Tamil party, the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF], and religious and ethnic groups were participating in the meeting aimed at finding a solution to tensions between the country's minorty Tamils and majority Sinhalese.

The predominantly Hindu Tamils have been campaigning for an independent state in the north and east of the country in response to what they say is officially sanctioned discrimination by the Sinhalese.

President Junius Jayewardene proposed the roundtable conference after tensions between the two communities erupted into anti-Tamil attacks last July which left nearly 400 dead and 100,000 homeless. But one delegate to the talks who requested anonymity said today that he seriously doubted that anything tangible could emerge from the discussions.

Informed sources said a Buddhist monk participating in the conference told the meeting yesterday that the Sinhalese majority was the aggrieved party in the country's communal tensions and not the Tamils. "In this climate it is difficult to see how any concessions could be made to the Tamils," the delegate said, adding that in the past three days of meetings, the various delegations had only repeated their past positions. "So the conflicts remain and one cannot see any results coming out of this conference," he said.

"The TULF will find it difficult to negotiate if the Buddhist monks take up this position," an observer added. The Buddhist clergy forms a powerful group in this predominantly Buddhist nation, and observers said that if the monks and representatives of other Sinhala organisations presented a common front against the Tamils, it would be very difficult to evolve any solution to the country's problems.

But government sources remained confident that positive results would emerge from the talks, which a conference spokesman said yesterday had made some progress.

President Jayewardene suggested to yesterday's session that the conference break up into committees to study different aspects of the ethnic problem, informed sources said. Among the subjects discussed would be the question of maintaining Sri Lanka's national integrity and the issue of terrorism. But when asked if the conference was ready to take up such key issues as the amalgamation of the northern and eastern provinces as proposed by TULF, sources close to the conference said the meeting had come nowhere near discussing these matters.

The delegates were expected to continue discussions today on the draft document incorporating various suggestions for inclusion in the agenda. "It might not be smooth sailing at this point, so it could take some time because some delegations will not want certain items included," one source said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Revolution's Message

LD122356 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Unit report, Education and Training Minister Parvaresh, accompanied by the under secretaries and directors general of that ministry, today met Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the meeting, addressing everyone working hard in connection with the revolution's cultural work, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The basis and foundation of this revolution are its cultural dimension and moral message.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that what aroused the animosity of the arrogant powers against Iran is the spirit and real meaning of the revolution. For if it were anything else, our ultimate growth would have been tantamount to our becoming a country such as Sweden or Finland or another Western country; and such movement is arousing their animosity. The real message of this revolution is aimed at and close to the heart of those seeking justice. A great many false values have lost their color and a great many genuine values have retrieved their real colors.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In Tunisia, the people are demonstrating and have begun a campaign against the rulers there similar to the first days of our people's struggles. Westerners spread the fabrication that Iran's agents have penetrated that country and casued this problem, when as a matter of fact we ourselves know that we have no agents whatsoever there and have not had any presence there. They do not even allow our books to be published there. They also jam our broadcasts. Therefore, the question is the appreciation of the Tunisian people for Iran's Islamic Revolution.

In fact, a frightful nightmare has engulfed our enemies whereby they attribute everything to Iran. On the Hong Kong border, they arrested 14 Iranian counterrevolutionaries for having illegal visas. They then embarked on propaganda fanfare that these people are Iranian terrorist agents who went there to commit sabotage. All this is taking place at a time when the thought of the Islamic Revolution has penetrated the four corners of the globe and has caused a great many people to move and has posed a question mark for a great many people. The truth of the matter is that what our enemies say is nothing but lies and falsehoods.

We did not have a hand in the Kuwaiti explosions. Of course, it is possible that those who did are Muslim revolutionary people and we might like them and they, too, might be loyal to us. But it has become clear that the Iraqi or Lebanese people, who have been subjected to oppression and have gone into hiding, have resorted to such deeds.

The Marxist movements have lost their color vis-a-vis Islam. The world's youth no longer considers it the banner of struggle. A great many of their sympathizers have changed and even those who are not familiar with Islam see big question marks before them.

The Majlis speaker then referred to Ehsan Tabari: For the past 42 years, since his early days, he has been the ideologist and press officer of the Tudeh Party and, just as he himself says in his old age bordering on death, he is facing a question mark bigger than his very existence. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We became acquainted with a great many such people in prison and we know their thoughts and ideas. A great many of these people were resistant officers in prison, but have now reached a phase whereby all those thoughts that constituted immutable dogmas to them have now lost their meaning. At that time, they did not accept any logic regarding their own dogmatism and this in itself is a mark of the constancy and firm-rootedness of the message of Islam which has opened its path in all quarters. Our enemies know that our military power is not such as to be able to go far beyond its own limits. The most we can do is safeguard ourselves. Our financial capabilities, too, are not of such dimensions. They spread all these lies against us in the world because of their fear of our message.

Continuing the speaker added: The spokesman of the U.S. White House quite cheekily announces: We are prepared to place our fleet at the disposal of Iraq. Iraq is the self-same country which, from the standpoint of the United States, is part of the blacklist of international terrorism and has been subjected to boycott. The United States knows that most of Iraq's weapons still belong to the USSR and Russian experts are still in Iraq. From the standpoint of armaments, the Iraqi Army is a leftist army. The Ba'th Party has a socialist ideology and is also one of the satellites of the USSR, only it acts hypocritically and has its roots elsewhere. But despite knowing this, the United States says: We place our fleet at Iraq's disposal. And this shows that our enemies have lost their balance because of their extreme terror.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said that the Moscow journal *NOVOYE VREMYA* has openly admitted that Iraq started the war against Iran and said: It is a long way from world diplomatic standards for the United States, which claims to be neutral, to announce that it would place its fleet at Iraq's disposal. Iraq is the selfsame country that used to issue a great many leftist slogans. Therefore, the fact that they fear us all that much does not merely stem from any geographical situation nor from the issue of oil or other things, but rather, on the contrary, they fear Islam. This animosity of global arrogance and its terror of us will render us more steadfast along our path.

In conclusion, extolling those young people who are sincerely sacrificing their lives along the path of God Almighty, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly referred to the explosion at the headquarters of the U.S. forces in Lebanon: The person who crashed into the building in a vehicle carrying a few tons of explosives knew that he himself would in the first place pulverished in that explosion. But he is no ordinary human being. He is a great learned person who has attained lofty positions.

Montazeri Speaks to Envoys on Mission

LD121211 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arab and African countries, accompanied by

our country's deputy foreign minister, met yesterday with the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

In this meeting, while thanking the ambassadors and charges d'affaires who have accepted the responsibility of acting as ambassadors and as conveyors of the message of the Islamic Revolution to various countries far and near, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: The gentlemen are, no doubt, aware that they are not simply the ambassadors of their country. Under the present conditions, you are the ambassadors of Islam and the revolution to the countries in which you are accredited. Therefore, our Islamic nation and other Muslim nations expect a great deal from you. For all of you, the responsibilities are very heavy. The behavior and character shown by you and your families and your dealings with others should be correct and in accordance with Islam and the revolution. You should refrain from improper activities which are not in keeping with the dignity of an ambassador of the Islamic Republic.

Referring to making use of the domestic manpower of different countries for propagating and introducing Islam in those countries, he said: Although I know that the resources put at the disposal of the gentlemen are limited, nevertheless, we expect the government to pay greater attention to this matter and to put greater resources at the disposal of its ambassadors and charges d'affaires so that they may be able to implement their missions in the best possible way. Within the framework and regulations of the countries to which they are accredited the gentlemen should try to attract those individuals who are interested in Islam and they should try to put at their disposal useful Islamic books and the messages of the leader of the revolution and the like. However, they should refrain from engaging in actions which are contrary to the program of the host country, although some of our revolutionary youths may expect them to do otherwise.

Referring to the activities of Christian missionaries, on the one hand, and to the activities of the propagators of blasphemy, Marxism, and heretical sects in African countries, on the other, and the interest shown in Islam by those countries, he said: Despite all the efforts of world arrogance to isolate Islam, today we see that interest in Islam and the revolution in African countries and in other countries is daily increasing.

I hope that with government cooperation and through their own endeavors the gentlemen will be able to discharge their heavy responsibilities in the present phase of the revolution in the best possible way.

Khamene'i Addresses POW Commission Officials

LD121336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Members of the commission administering the affairs of Iraqi POW's and the participants in the national seminar of officials in charge of POW camps today met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

After a report by the commission's supervisor, the outcome of this seminar and the commission's performance, Khamene'i said in a speech that he hoped the POW's would grow spiritually and ethically.

Referring to the crimes committed by the Zionist regime in Baghdad during the imposed war, the president said: A crime that has led to the deaths of tens of thousands of people, the destruction of thousands of houses, the loss of thousands of millions [as heard], and the waste of thousands of hours of useful work cannot be forgiven. The world must find the culprit; we insist that this culprit be severely punished.

The president said: In the course of the imposed war, many people created a poisonous atmosphere and insisted that we should not ask for the culprit's punishment, whereas this is our right. They have pounded our cities and our people in their homes. Everyone has told us to retaliate and to pound their cities as well. But although many of their cities, including Al-Basra, Mandali, and 'Amarah, are within the range of our fire, we have not done it so far. We have said that we have no war against the people of cities and villages; they do not pour missiles onto our heads. When Saddam's mercenaries hit our cities and residential areas with missiles, the people of Iraq mourn. We do not want to make them mourn again by our retaliation.

Referring to the future of the imposed war, the president said: With divine blessing and through the people's efforts, the war, which today is an essential issue facing our nation, the deprived Iraqi nation and the region, will end in the interest of Islam and the Muslims.

The Supreme Defense Council charman emphasized: By providing the resources, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made its final decision on the future of the present Iraqi regime and is fully prepared to implement it.

Khamene'i concluded: The disastrous future of the Saddam regime is clear to the Muslim Iranian nation. The help rendered by the region's Muslim nations and the realism of political observers and analysts will accelerate the attainment of this future. [sentence as heard]

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,602

LD121738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,602 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. While begging to convey to you our felicitations for the birthday anniversary of the Holy Imam Hasan al-'Askari — may peace be upon him — we hereby bring to your attention a summary of battle operations during the past 24 hours.

Yesterday, on the fronts on the country's northwestern borders, an exchange of heavy weapons fire took place between Islamic and Saddamist forces. In the Hajj 'Umran and Sar Dasht operational zones, our combatants opened harrassing fire on the enemy's positions and bases and silenced their artillery fire, inflicting damage on the Saddamist bases, mortar sites, and

several loaders and bulldozers and killing or wounding a number of Iraqi servicemen.

On the operational zone opposite Marivan, an exchange of fire continued. Our forces opened fire, preventing the mercenaries' trench-digging and mining activities and destroying several Iraqi trenches.

In the Panjwin region, movements by enemy forces and armor were observed. Thanks to our forces' fire, Saddamist traffic came to a halt.

On the border fronts in Bakhtaran and Ilam, a sporadic exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the region, the intensity of the fire being greatest in the Sumar area.

On the southern fronts yesterday, Islam's fighting units vigilantly frustrated infiltration operations by the enemy's scout patrols, disrupted movements by enemy columns in the Sharhani and Zubaydat areas and set fire to (?20) foxholes and trenches of the aggressors along with the servicemen stationed in them.

Various residential districts in the city of Abadan yesterday came under fire from enemy long-range weapons; two houses and two stores suffered damage.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Majlis Elects Interparliamentary Union Delegates

LD121939 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The public relations office of the Islamic Consultative Assembly announced that deputies of the Majlis have elected the following gentlemen as their representatives to take part at the 71st conference of the Interparliamentary Union to be held in Geneva. The elected representatives are: Messrs Seyyed Ahmad 'Attari, Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani, Sabah Zanganeh, 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i, Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, 'Abdolvahed Musavi-Lari, and Morteza Alviri.

Commentary Explains Islamic Summit Stance

GF101054 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Delegations from the Islamic Republic recently visited a number of Islamic countries to explain the constant stand of the Islamic Republic on the convening of the Islamic summit in Rabat in the middle of this month. It is worth mentioning that the Islamic Republic recently announced its decision not to participate in this summit whose convening in Rabat will nullify its Islamic significance and allow it to be used in the interests of some of the agent regimes in the region.

Tehran has put forth two arguments in regard to the summit conference. The first argument is against it being convened in Rabat under the auspices of the Moroccan shah, Hassan II. The second argument has to do with the conference's refusal to send an official delegation to the Islamic Republic of Iran to become acquainted with the facts and to closely investigate the crimes perpetrated by the Ba'thist regime against the Islamic Republic.

It is the right of the Islamic Republic to adopt this sound stance toward the upcoming summit conference from principled considerations. Hassan's tutelage of the summit conference will give him complete legitimacy and authorize him to lead Islamic affairs for the next 2 years. Since the facts show Hassan II to be completely incompetent in his leadership of an Islamic country, then how can be lead this great grouping of Islamic countries? What is even more serious is that the Islamic organization, under Hassan's leadership, will be at the mercy of infidel arrogance which is best represented by the United States and which in its part is related to the Moroccan Government as the master is to its slave. Is it right for the Muslims to put all their capabilities in Washington's hands and make U.S. President Ronald Reagan the guardian of their Islamic affairs? We ask this question of the children of the Islamic nation.

A third argument can be added to the other two, which is the flagrant hostility which Hassan II has toward the Islamic Revolution in Iran and toward every Islamic revolution. The history of his regime is replete with harmful stands toward Islamic affairs. As our Muslim people in Iran were creating the greatest epic in modern history and registering in the history books the most glorious popular revolution known to mankind — at the time when all the Muslims in the world were fostering this revolution which erupted in the name of God and aimed at implementing Islamic teachings — Hassan II was receiving the biggest tyrant in modern history and giving him all possible assistance in total disregard of the Islamic feelings that were in response to the Islamic Revolution.

In contrast to the positions of other international organizations, — which responded to the demands of the Islamic Republic of Iran and dispatched delegations to the warfronts to tour the devastated villages and cities, the Islamic organization has yet to initiate a similar action in order to become fully aware of the background of this aggressive war and make recommendations compatible with the aggression which the Islamic Republic of Iran faces and which was launched by the powers of international arrogance and its allies in the region. This deliberate ignorance has resulted in its equating the aggressor with the attacked and the unjust with the unjustly treated.

The organization continues to adhere to this stance without tyring to objectivly assess the situation. This very position is not only illogical, but it is also in contradiction to Islamic teachings which forbid bargaining between the unjust and the unjustly treated, and thus this strips it of any legitimacy in its positions and decisions.

The organization was formed to attain unity and to confront the various dangers that jeopardize the heart of the Islamic nation. The organization is expected to continue adhering to this course. But the interference of some sides which have interests in divid-

ing the Islamic ranks and in coercing the resources of this nation has had a detrimental affect.

But once the organization returns to this course with its defined principles and historic role, then it will find in the Islamic Republic of Iran a unique buttress. The organization will ultimately find itself in a position compatible with the aspirations of the Islamic peoples.

Quds Liberation Committee Meets in Esfahan

GF121928 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Summary from poor reception] The Liberation of Quds Committee met today at the revolution guards headquarters in Esfahan. The Esfahan Friday imam, the imam's representative to the revolution guards, the governor of Esfahan, and several officials of the revolution guards in Sector 2, members of the central council of the reconstruction crusade of Esfahan Province, and others attended.

At the meeting, the commander of the local revolution guards explained the objectives of the meeting. Mr Safavi, member of the Revolution Guards council, spoke on the work done by the Liberation of Quds Committee. The meeting discussed setting up Quds liberation camps in all towns throughout the country supported by donations from the people and help from the reconstruction crusade and the engineering department of the revolution guards. The camps will be used for organizing and training members of the 20-million-strong army of Iran.

Guards Minister, Acting Commander Speak at Ceremonies

GF081714 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Rafiqdust, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps minister, and Shamkhani, acting Guards Corps commander at the (Takkeh) base, delivered speeches in praise of the valor of the combatants of Islam, the trends of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and the (?victories) in the imposed war.

According to reports received by the Central News Unit, during these ceremonies, a text of the congratulatory address of Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Fazlollah Mahallati, the imam's deputy in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, was read.

MKO Statement Cited on Officers' Executions

GF071750 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The execution of Armed Forces officers has intensified in Khomeyni's Islamic Republic. According to a dispatch by our correspondent, the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization's [MKO] office in Paris in a statement published today has reported that the Khomeyni regime has begun another wave of executions of Armed Forces officers and NCO's in its prisons and is secretly executing a number of them daily.

The MKO office adds: Even though there are many difficulties in obtaining exact information about the fate of the arrested officers, the names of Lieutenant Hadibeygi, who was executed in Esfahan, and Lieutenant Mohammad Ashrafpur, who went before a firing squad in Evin Prison, are known. The Khomeyni regime stopped revealing the names of those executed in prisons some time ago.

Seda-ye Iran Reports Execution of 48 Baha'is

GF120850 (Clandestine) Seda-ye Iran Radio in Persian 1930 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Summary from poor reception] A shocking report says the Islamic Republic of Iran (?on the morning of 18 October) has again executed, in a brutal manner, 48 innocent Iranian (?friends) on charges of membership in the association of the Iranian Baha'is and spying for the (?Zionists). They were part of a marriage party when they were attacked by armed ruffians, arrested, and taken to the Evin Prison.

Interior Minister Introduces Tehran's New Mayor

GF081555 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA — Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri introduced Tehran's new mayor Mohammad Nabi Habibi to a group of municipality workers at the new municipality building here today.

The interior minister pointed out to the attending staffers of Tehran municipality that Mr. Habibi formerly governor-general of Tehran province, had earlier been also actively involved in urban planning in the Provinces of Kerman, Fars and Khorasan. He also expressed hope that by improving upon certain current practices and delegations of routine tasks to the lower eschelons of the municipality staffers, the more expert personnel of the municipality and among them urban planners would allocate more time to planning activities. The Hojjat ol-Eslam also commented that based on reports reaching him in the past, sporadic instances of corruption were observed which would have to be curbed immediately. He also reminded that a revolutionary conduct of ones official functions does not in any way imply or necessitate disregard for regulations and laws, and that each and every radical must oblige himself to respect to the fullest extent all the laws within the domain of his official functions.

Speaking to the audience, Tehran's new mayor, Mohammad Nabi Habibi said that he counted much more on the collaboration of a community of 45,000 municipality workers than on his own capacity. He reminded that he respects expertise and honours expert staffers but he would not tolerate an invasion of Islamic values by a group of technocrats under whatever excuse.

Seda-ye Iran Notes Tudeh Ideologist's TV Interview

GF101100 (Clandestine) Seda-ye Iran Radio in Persian 1930 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] According to a report reaching us, Ehsan Tabari, the Tudeh Party's ideologist, has participated in a television show.

The brain behind the Tudeh Party Central Committee, who has been in Evin Prison since last February, in a television interview, has revealed new aspects of the contacts between party leaders and political agents of the Soviet Union. The report adds that the Islamic Republic is waiting for the right time to broadcast the interview.

Ehsan Tabari, 71-year-old member of the Central Committee who lived in the GDR and Soviet Union for 30 years, returned to Tehran to live as a result of encouragement by Mullah Beheshti, secretary general of the Islamic Republican Party. He then started his highly active cooperation with officials of Khomeyni's regime.

During the course of the crushing of the Tudeh Party, rumors of Tabari's death as a result of a heart attack circulated in Iran.

Iraqi Revolutionaries Launch Attack in Khurmal

GF111905 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries launched an attack against the forces of the ruling regime in Iraq in the northern Iraqi town of Khurmal and killed and wounded a number of these forces.

The newscast of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq announced that the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries also destroyed an armored vehicle of the Saddamist forces and killed and wounded nine of their members by detonating a mine on (Shambel)-Khurmal road in northern Iraq.

Reportage on Afghan Mujahidin Activities

Army Officer Executed

GF061444 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have executed an Afghan regime Army officer. An Islamic court sentenced this office — who was a captain — to death for cooperating with the Soviet invasion forces in killing innocent Afghan citizens. This officer was captured during a battle between the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries and the forces of Kabul's regime along the main road between [name indistinct] and Jalalabad.

Heavy Losses Reported

GF081931 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] In consecutive attacks, the revolutionary Afghan Muslims have inflicted heavy loss of life and serious material damage on Soviet troops and Kabul regime's forces. According to Kabul radio, violent clashes are still continuing between the Afghan mujahidin and the aggressive forces in Balkh and Herat Provinces.

Occupationist Soviet troops have bombarded a number of regions in Paktia Province in retaliation for the occupation of Paktia Airport by the revolutionary Afghan Muslims. A total of 11 villages have suffered damage as a result of the bombardment. A number of defenseless Muslims have been martyred and many others have been wounded.

Army II Corps Attacked

GF100604 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The Muslim Afghan rebels have launched an attack on the Army II Corps of the ruling regime in Afghanistan in Qandahar region. They inflicted (?heavy) losses, in addition to killing 30 members of the forces of the ruling reime in Kabul.

6 Tanks Destroyed

GF101716 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Zahedan, Jan. 10, IRNA — Six tanks of the joint Soviet and Afghan forces were destroyed and 60 of their troops were killed or wounded in a region in Shindand Governorate of Herat Province on Dec. 31, in a successful operation launched by the Afghan mujahideen.

Informed Afghan sources further said that the joint forces retaliated by bombarding the Afghan mujahideen bases and the residential areas in the said region. As a result 2 Afghan mujahideen and several civilians were martyred.

Recent Clashes Viewed

GF101752 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 9 Jan 84

[From "Glance at Developments in Iran and in World" program]

[Excerpts] Dear Isiteners, with the setting in of the 5th year of the military occupation of the Islamic land of Afghanistan, the oppressing Marxist regime launched an intensive effort aimed at controlling the Islamic and revolutionary movements in that country. However, reports coming in from Afghanistan are pleasing in that they carry news about the setting in of a new phase of the Islamic movement in Afghanistan.

The Afghan mujahidin, who have been converting mountainous regions, towns and villages into cemeteries for the forces of the Kabul regime and those of the Soviet occupationists for years on end, have recently directed their offensives toward large residential areas. It has been observed that a number of important cities are among the places attacked by revolutionary Muslims during the past few weeks. Such is the support the Afghan people give to revolutionary Muslims that the latter are able to enter the cities easily to conduct organizational work to set up resistance centers. The successful armed attacks in large cities like Herat, Qandahar, and Kabul is indicative of the degree of harmony between the revolutionaries and the people.

A number of new regions have come under the control of revolutionary Afghans. IRNA has reported that Qandahar, the second largest city in Afghanistan, came under the control of the

Muslims on the anniversary of the occupation of that country. The Kabul regime's forces, which lost their ground in that city, suffered heavy losses in these clashes. Many of them surrendered to the revolutionary Afghan Muslims.

The recent attacks on a number of the regime's establishments and official buildings have amazed the people. Latest reports say that a technical establishment in Kabul has been attacked and a large number of the troops of the Afghan regime have been killed. Apart from this, clashes between the revolutionary Muslims and the joint forces of the Soviet Union and the Kabul regime are still continuing in Herat Province.

Taking into consideration the Islamic resistance in Afghanistan and the major support the people are giving to the mujahidin, it becomes apparent that the occupation plan is in an impasse and as such the only way of resolving the question is the unconditional withdrawal of the occupationist Soviet forces from the Isalmic land of Afghanistan and the recognition of the right of the Muslim Afghan people to determine their own administration.

MiG's, Helicopter Downed

GF101940 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] In violent clashes in Ghazni and Qandahar Provinces in Afghanistan during the past few days, the revolutionary Afghan Muslims have downed two MiG's and one helicopter belonging to the occupationist Soviet troops. They have also destroyed an armored personnel carrier, killed at least 100 members of the occupationist Soviet troops and Afghan Army units, and wounded a large number of others.

In Qandahar itself, the revolutionary Afghan Muslims surrounded a military garrison and killed 70 members of the Afghan regime's forces and wounded 100 others. A total of 20 Babrak Karmal regime servicemen surrendered to the revolutionary Muslims during the operation, together with their arms.

Retaliating against these defeats, the occupationist Soviet forces attacked residential areas in Qandahar and Ghazni with aircraft and missiles. At least 140 defenseless Muslims were martyred during the attack.

Briefs

Madagascar Delegation — Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA — The economic delegation from Madagascar concluded its preliminary talks with Iranian Oil Ministry officials today. The delegation which left here today is to return in a convenient opportunity to sign contracts in this regard. The industries minister of Madagascar, Tantley Andrian Drido, arrived here Sunday heading an economic delegation and held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. During the meeting, Foreign Minister Velayati briefed Iran's policy of expanding its relations with Third World, non-aligned and specially African countries. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 10 Jan 84 GF]